

CARROT PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--800 50 lb. Master poly containers/ac. (22.0 tons)

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble disc	17.75					17.75
Subsoil	27.00					27.00
Disc 1x	9.00					9.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilize	6.00	450#11-48-0	47.25			53.25
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Triplane 1x	8.50					8.50
Fumigation	10.50	Fumigant	75.00			85.50
List	10.50					10.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>273.50</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	2.39			20.89
Plant	12.00	2.50# OP seed @ 6.00/#	15.00			27.00
Sprinkler irrigate						120.00
Cultivate 2x	9.75					19.50
Spike 2x	8.50					17.00
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	150# N @ .30	45.00			65.00
Layby herbicide	7.00	Herbicide	13.63			20.63
Water run fertilizer		50 # N @ .30	15.00			15.00
Irrigate 7x		Water 5 3/4 ac/ft	51.75	9	49.50	101.25
Insect control 1x	4.90	Insecticides	15.00			19.90
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>426.17</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>699.67</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of harvest costs and land rent				104.96
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>979.63</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Harvest by machine, haul, and pack		800 50 lb. sacks @	4.00/sack (contract rate)			3200.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>4179.63</b>

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)  
price/master poly sack

	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	Breakeven \$/sack	
Poly sacks	700	-630	-280	70	420	770	5.40
per	750	-605	-230	145	520	895	5.31
acre	800	-580	-180	220	620	1020	5.22
	850	-555	-130	295	720	1145	5.15
	900	-530	-80	370	820	1270	5.09

CARROT CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1986	10754	25.0	\$207
1985	9472	19.0	207
1984	7913	23.4	151
1983	10008	20.8	160
1982	6412	21.8	174

PLANTING DATES: Early carrots are planted the last week in August and early September. Later maturing carrots are planted in October and early November. Carrot beds are normally planted with six rows of carrots on 42 inch beds. Three rows are placed on each bed shoulder. Rows are usually 1 1/2 inches apart. Both natural raw seed and coated seed are used.

VARIETIES: "Long Imperator 58" is the standard open pollinated variety grown. Hybrid varieties are widely used. Cost of hybrid seed is about \$48 per pound. Florida and Arizona compete in our carrot markets. Carrots are seeded at a rate of 750,000 to 1,000,000 live seeds per acre. Germination usually runs 80% and seed counts may be 175,000 to 400,000 per pound. The seeding rate per acre is calculated accordingly.

SOILS: Carrots can be grown on many of the soil types in the county. Best root development is obtained in the lighter soils. Carrots should not be grown on stratified soils. If soils are too heavy, deformed roots will result. Roots will not develop good color if the soil stays too wet.

IRRIGATION: Carrots are sprinkler irrigated for stand establishment. Carrots germinate slowly, therefore, the beds must be kept moist to prevent crusting. Sprinklers also reduce the salinity in the seed beds. Carrots are very sensitive to salinity. Sprinkler costs include rent, in-and-out labor, maintenance and sprinkler operation.

FERTILIZERS: Previous crop history will help in determining fertilizer requirements. Phosphate is applied before listing at rates of 400 pounds 11-52-0 per acre. Two hundred pounds of nitrogen are usually ample. Preplant fertilizer should be disced into the soil before listing to prevent forking.

PEST CONTROL: Both preplant and layby herbicides are used. Consult your weed control farm advisor for additional information.

Crickets, grasshoppers, striped flea beetle larvae and cutworms can be a problem when seedlings emerge. Later, aphids and spider mites may attack the leaves. Cutworms and aphids may attack crowns. Powdery mildew needs to be controlled if it attacks early in the growing season. Nematodes must be controlled by fumigation and damping-off fungi by seed treatment. Cavity spot and forking disorders have become serious problems in some fields. At present crop rotation away from carrots is the only control. Root rot is usually absent under good cultural practices.

HARVESTING: Both hand and machine harvesting are practiced. Harvesting takes place from December to June. Carrots are shipped with tops on (bunched carrots), in one pound cello bags or topped loose. Prices vary according to container size. Two sizes of cello carrots are packed including jumbos and standards. Jumbos are cheaper to pack, but the cost data does not allow for this reduction to be itemized.